

> I am writing to oppose the reasoning behind NPRM  
> 02-33, "Appropriate Framework for Broadband Access  
to the  
> Internet over Wireline Facilities", because I am  
> afraid that treating broadband Internet access as an  
> information service (as proposed by NPRM 02-33)  
> would  
> deprive United States citizens of the single most  
> important feature of the Internet that has made it  
> such a runaway success over the last decade.  
>  
> Let me introduce myself. I have a Ph.D. in  
> Political  
> Science from Columbia University, specializing in  
> human rights and democratic transitions. In my work  
> in Central and Eastern Europe, I have seen how  
> critically important the Internet has become to  
> advance information flow, citizen participation, and  
> democratization, while at the same time fueling  
> economic growth. I am writing as a concerned  
> citizen  
> of the United States to protect  
> recent great advances in communications technology  
> --  
> and, more importantly, in network architecture --  
> will  
> become available to all in my country.  
>  
> In my understanding, "access" involves connecting my  
> computer (and other digital communications devices)  
> to  
> the Internet. "Information" is quite different --  
> information is in the ones and zeros that enter my  
> computer to be processed by it. Information can  
> flow  
> into my devices over a variety of "access" -- over a  
> wire, over a cable, over an optical fiber, or  
> through  
> the air (either as radio-frequency energy, or as  
> light-wave energy). That is, the same sequence of  
> ones and zeros can enter my computer by any of these  
> access methods. So to equate "access" with  
> "information", as does NPRM 02-33, is simply  
> incorrect.  
>  
> It was not always so. The telephone network was  
> developed to deliver one kind of information -- the  
> human voice. It was engineered for voice, and it  
> gave  
> access to voice. Everything else that it carried  
> (e.g., touch tones, modem signals, signalling  
> information to set up telephone calls) was either an  
> exception, or an adjunct to voice telephony. The  
> wire  
> that came into the house could not be distinguished  
> from the service it provided. It was the same for  
> television and radio -- each had its own dedicated

> infrastructure (be it a wire or a frequency band) to  
> carry a specific type of information.  
>  
> The great advance of the Internet was that its  
> fundamental architecture separated "access" from  
> "information". Any one of the various forms of  
> access  
> to the Internet puts one in touch with an infinite  
> array of information. Furthermore,  
> providers of this information (information service  
> providers) do not own special infrastructure -- all  
> they need is a server and any of the several methods  
> of Internet access. As a result, the Internet is  
> wide-open to innovation, and we have applications  
> and  
> services like email, Web browsing (in all its  
> manifestations), ecommerce, Internet telephony,  
> streaming audio and video, chat and instant  
> messaging.  
>  
>  
> Not a single one of these information (and  
> communications) services was brought to market by a  
> telephone company or a television company or a cable  
> operator or a broadcast radio network. No, access  
> is  
> a fundamentally different business from "information  
> service". To equate "broadband access" and  
> "information service" -- as NPRM 02-33 proposes --  
> would be a horrendous step backwards.  
>  
> Without separation, "broadband access" as an  
> "information service" is likely to resemble the  
> failed  
> Interactive TV experiments of the early 1990s.  
> TV-on-speed is not "the Internet" -- and vice versa.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Rita Moore, Ph.D.  
>  
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> \_\_\_\_\_  
> Do You Yahoo!?  
> Yahoo! Health - your guide to health and wellness  
> <http://health.yahoo.com>  
>  
> ----- End Included Message -----

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Yahoo! Health - your guide to health and wellness  
<http://health.yahoo.com>